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GPO's FY 2002 Appropriations Approved

With Senate passage on November 1, 2001, of the conference agreement on H.R. 2647, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 2002, Congress completed action on GPO's appropriations, clearing the measure for the President. The President signed the bill into law on November 12, 2001.

Under Title I of the Act, \$71.5 million was approved for GPO's Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation, which is used to cover the costs of printing work that GPO performs for Congress, such as the *Congressional Record*, bills, reports, and hearings. This is the full amount requested by GPO for FY 2002.

Under Title II of the Act, \$27.9 million was approved for the Salaries and Expenses Appropriation of the Superintendent of Documents, also the full amount requested by GPO. This funding is used to cover the costs of distributing Government publications as required by law (including distribution to Federal depository libraries), cataloging and indexing documents, distributing Government publications to recipients designated by law, and distributing Government publications to other nations which agree to send copies of their official publications to the Library of Congress.

The Salaries and Expenses Appropriation for FY 2002 includes funding for additional staff to locate and catalog online Government information, modernize GPO's cataloging system, and support the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Electronic Collection made available through *GPO Access*.

GPO's request of 3,260 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees for FY 2002 was also approved. Together, the two appropriations to GPO total \$99.4 million, representing about 4% of total legislative branch funding overall.

Earlier in the year, in the supplemental appropriation for FY 2001, GPO was provided with \$9.9 million to fund a prior year shortfall in congressional printing and binding and \$6 million for energy-efficient air conditioning and lighting improvements recommended by the General Accounting Office. Also, there was a Government-wide rescission of .22% that reduced the two FY 2002 Appropriations by \$218,000. With the supplemental and rescission, GPO's appropriations for FY 2001, which originally were \$99.4 million, totaled \$115.1 million.

Also approved was a legislative amendment that will extend the life of GPO's early retirement and separation incentive programs for an additional three years. These programs were originally enacted in FY 1999 for 3 years. Under them, 98 GPO employees have taken early-out retirements, resulting in an estimated \$5 million in savings.

GPO Closes Bookstores

Responding to declining sales of Government publications, GPO closed 4 of its bookstores in 2001. In July, the San Francisco and McPherson Square bookstores were closed, and in August GPO closed the Boston bookstore. The bookstore in Philadelphia was closed in September. The closings reduced the number of GPO bookstores nationwide to 20 by the end of 2001.

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Declining publications sales have resulted primarily from the public's increased ability to access Government publications free of charge over the Internet, including most prominently nearly 225,000 Government titles available on *GPO Access*. Nearly 31 million documents are being retrieved by the public every month from *GPO Access*. *GPO Access* features a number of regulatory information titles, such as the *Federal Register* and the *Code of Federal Regulations*, that once were the mainstays of bookstore sales. While a number of bookstores continue to generate net income, there are others whose sales have been declining and which have been operating at a loss.

The San Francisco, Boston, and Philadelphia bookstores were selected for closing due to their financial profiles. Although generating net income, the McPherson Square bookstore's sales were declining and Washington, DC, was the only city in the Nation with more than one bookstore. The McPherson Square bookstore began operations in 1987, the Boston bookstore began in 1970, the San Francisco bookstore in 1969, and the Philadelphia bookstore in 1977.

The employees at the McPherson Square bookstore and one employee from the San Francisco bookstore were transferred to GPO's Central Office. A Boston employee was transferred to GPO's Boston regional procurement office, and two Philadelphia employees were transferred to the Philadelphia regional procurement office. One employee each in San Francisco and Boston retired. The remaining

San Francisco employee found another Federal job through the hiring preference provided by Federal reduction-in-force (RIF) procedures, while 2 Philadelphia employees faced RIF procedures. GPO personnel staff provided assistance to these employees.

GPO has worked closely with the congressional delegations for each bookstore area, and with the local media, to point out that the bookstore closings will not deprive local citizens of access to Government information. In addition to *GPO Access*, information can still be purchased from GPO by phone, fax, mail, and online, and there are multiple Federal depository library collections in San Francisco, Boston, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia that provide public access to Government documents.

GPO Hosts Release of Federal Budget Documents

GPO hosted 3 different releases of budget documents by the Office of Management and Budget in FY 2001 in both print and online formats.

The first publication was the *FY 2002 Economic Outlook, Highlights from FY 1994 to FY 2001, FY 2002 Baseline Projections*, released on January 16, 2001. Issued in the last week of President Clinton's administration, the publication summarized historical data and provided estimates of the economy's direction. The second publication was *A Blueprint for New Beginnings: A Responsible Budget for America's Priorities*. It was released on February 28, 2001, to provide general information about the